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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

24 June 1974

WASHINGTON, D C--Rep Kika de la Garza urged expeditious approval of his bill authorizing the construction of Choke Canyon Dam in an appearance Monday before the House Subcommittee on Water and Power Resources.

The Congressman reminded the committee, which held field hearings on the legislation last November, that testimony of local citizens showed the flood control and water conservation project is of vital importance to the continued growth and economic development of the Texas Coastal Bend area.

"The situation has not changed since November" he said, "The landowners and civic interests of the area are of the same opinion that they expressed then."

Asked by a committee member about the urgency of the project, Congressman de la Garza replied, "Every time it rains we get flooded."

He voiced surprise at a report from the Department of the Interior recommending deferral of further action pending the filing of an environmental statement. He said it was his understanding, which several members of the committee indicated they shared, that the statement has already been prepared.

When the environmental statement is filed, it will be followed by a public hearing.

Rep John Young and Rep Abraham Kazen, Jr, co-sponsors of the legislation, also testified before the committee. As did Harry Schultz, of Three Rivers, attorney for the Nueces River Authority, who was accompanied at the hearing by George Jambers of Whitsett, Texas, Second Vice President of the Authority.

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